

**Rhode Island State Planning Council**  
**Draft Minutes of Thursday, October 22, 2014 Meeting**  
William E. Powers Building  
Conference Room A  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

**I. ATTENDANCE**

**1. Members Present**

Mr. Kevin Flynn, Secretary	Associate Director, Division of Planning
Ms. Meredith Brady	Representing Mr. Michael Lewis, Director, RI Department of Transportation
Ms. Jeanne Cola	Chair, RI Housing Resources Commission
Ms. Sharon Conard-Wells	West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation
Mr. Roy Coulombe	Public Member
Mr. Ruben Flores-Marzan	Planning Director, Providence Department of Planning and Development
Ms. Marion Gold	Director, RI Office of Energy Resources
Ms. Elizabeth Leach	Representing Mr. Thomas Mullaney, RI Department of Administration, Budget Office
Mr. Scott Millar	Representing Ms. Janet Coit, Director, RIDEM
Ms. Amy Rainone	Representing Mr. Richard Godfrey, Executive Director Rhode Island Housing
Mr. Jan Reitsma	Governor's Policy Office
Mr. M. James Riordan	Public Member
Mr. Peder Schaefer	Representing Mr. Daniel Beardsley, Executive Director, RILOCAT
Mr. Samuel Shamoon	Governor's Designee
Mr. Michael Walker	Representing Mr. Marcel Valois, Executive Director, Commerce RI
Ms. Janet White-Raymond	Public Member

**2. Members Absent**

Ms. Jeanne Boyle	President's Designee, RILOCAT
Ms. Ana Cano-Morales	Public Member
Mr. Michael Fine	Director RI Department of Health
Mr. Grover Fugate	Executive Director, RI Coastal Resources Management Council
Mr. Steven Hartford, Chair	Director of Administration
Mr. Marcus Mitchell	Small Business Representative
Mr. L. Vincent Murray	RILOCAT, Government Official Representative
Mr. Raymond Studley	RIPTA
Mr. John Trevor	Environmental Advocate
Mr. Scott Wolf	Environmental Advocate

### 3. Guests

Mr. Nate Kelly

Horsley Witten Group, Incorporated

### 4. Staff – Division of Planning

Ms. Melanie Army

Supervising Planner, Statewide Planning

Mr. Jeff Davis

Principal Planner, Statewide Planning

Ms. Siobhan O’Kane

Principal Planner, Statewide Planning

Mr. Jared Rhodes

Chief, Statewide Planning Program

Ms. Dawn Vittorioso

Executive Assistant, Division of Planning

## II. **AGENDA ITEMS**

### 1. Call to Order

Mr. Flynn in Director Hartford’s absence and at his request called the meeting to order on October 22, 2014 at 9:12 a.m.

### 2. Approval of the October 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes – *for vote*

Mr. Flynn asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 9, 2014. Mr. Coulombe moved to approve the minutes of October 9, 2014 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shamoon. The following members voted aye Brady, Cola, Conard-Wells, Coulombe, Flores-Marzan, Flynn, Gold, Leach, Millar, Reitsma, Shamoon, Walker and White-Raymond, all voted to approve. Designee Schaefer abstained. There were no nay votes or further discussion. Council member, Riordan and designee Rainone were not present for the vote.

Mr. Flynn indicated that the agenda items will be presented out of order. He then began delivering the Associate Director’s Report.

### 3. Associate Director’s Report

Mr. Flynn addressed the following items under the Associate Director’s report:

- RI Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC) honoring of Council Members Boyle & Mullaney as this year’s public service award winners;
- RhodeMap RI Economic Development Plan public hearings schedule;

### 4. 2014 Committee Nominations, Proposed “Slate of Names” – *for introduction*

Next, Mr. Flynn introduced Mr. Rhodes who began by reminding the Council that various memberships to their Technical Committee, Transportation Advisory Committee, Recreation Resource Committee and the Geographic Information System Executive Committee would soon be expiring. He then introduced the proposed “Slate of Names” for 2014 appointments distributed in the Council’s meeting packets. In concluding, he explained that the item was for introductory purposes only and that a vote on the proposed

“Slate of Names” would be docketed for the Council’s next meeting following a minimum one month long consideration period.

There being no questions or comments, Mr. Flynn moved to the next agenda item.

5. **Proposed 2015 Meeting Schedule** – *for vote*

Mr. Flynn asked for a motion to approve the 2015 Meeting Schedule. Ms. Gold moved to approve the proposed 2015 meeting schedule. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brady. The following members voted aye Brady, Cola, Conard-Wells, Coulombe, Flores-Marzan, Flynn, Gold, Leach, Millar, Reitsma, Riordan, Shamoon, Walker and White-Raymond, all voted to approve. Designees Rainone and Schaefer abstained. There were no nay votes or further discussion.

6. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

There was none.

7. **RhodeMap RI Draft Housing Plan Update** – *for discussion*

Mr. Flynn introduced Mr. Kelly who provided a general overview of the Draft RhodeMap RI Housing Plan’s Goals, Policies and Strategies as shown in attachment 1. Instances where the Council engaged in discussion are summarized as follows:

Jan Reitsma asked if the effected populations where issues are identified were involved with the planning process. Mr. Kelly indicated that public outreach was extensive; a number of groups that speak clear to the issues identified are engaged in the process.

Mr. Schaefer expressed his concern that the 8% tax exemption and exemption for homes built on speculation is not mentioned in the report. Mr. Rhodes explained that the Plan is in draft form and the Council will have an opportunity to make suggestions prior to finalizing the Plan.

Mr. Reitsma asked Mr. Flynn to summarize the process/actions that have been taken thus far. Mr. Flynn explained that the process began almost two years ago. Staff worked through an extensive outreach process which included several workshops, open houses, public forums, consortium meetings, meetings in a box, Housing Committee meetings, Social Equity Advisory meetings, focus group meetings and public meetings. Mr. Davis also said that online outreach was also conducted.

Mr. Schaefer noted that both tax assessors and realtors have communicated with The League of Cities and Towns expressing their concern that the condominium market is declining and that financing is difficult to obtain. He said that if this information is valid, it should be noted within the Plan. Ms. Rainone said that there are different processes for condominium financing and said that she wasn’t aware of any issues but would investigate to see if they do exist.

There being no further questions or comments, the Council then split into two groups to discuss the content and answer the following questions:

1. What do you feel is missing?
2. What do you like? What resonates with you?
3. What do you feel are the top priorities?

8. **Other Business**

There was none.

9. **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, Council member Shamoon motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council member White-Raymond. The following members voted aye Brady, Conard-Wells, Coulombe, Flores-Marzan, Flynn, Gold, Leach, Millar, Reitsma, Riordan, Shamoon, Walker and White-Raymond, all voted to approve. Designee Rainone abstained. Council member Cola and Designee Schaefer were not present. There were no nay votes or further discussion. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



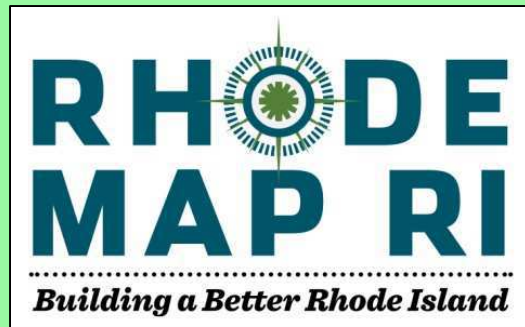
Kevin Flynn  
Secretary

# Attachment 1

# Draft Housing Plan Presentation

## State Planning Council

October 2014



RhodeMap RI: Building a Better Rhode Island

# Plan Structure

- Introduction
- Part One: Who Are We and Where Are We Going?
- Part Two: Where do we want to be in 20 years?
- Part Three: Achieving the Vision
- Part Four: Implementation



# How to Report Back

- Today's Discussion
- E-mail

Jeff.Davis@doa.ri.gov





# The Goals:

1. Housing Diversity
2. Low and Moderate Income Housing
3. Fair Housing
4. Homelessness
5. People with Disabilities
6. Seniors
7. Healthy Homes
8. Capacity to Implement the Plan



# Our Discussion Today

- Questions to you...
  - Likes and dislikes?
  - What may be missing?
  - Highest priorities?



# Goal 1: Integrate state-level policies to provide high quality housing in great places.

Policy 1.1: Enable and encourage municipalities to **create a diverse housing stock** that matches residents' needs and preference.

Policy 1.2: Support state investments and incentives, and provide technical assistance focused on preserving and creating **housing in priority redevelopment areas and growth centers**.



# Goal 1: Integrate state-level policies to provide high quality housing in great places.

Policy 1.3: Encourage housing investment in areas with existing or planned **water and sewer services and access to transportation.**



## Goal 2: Low and moderate income households will be able to secure affordable, healthy, conveniently located housing in all areas of Rhode Island.

Policy 2.1: Support State solutions and programs that preserve, **increase and improve existing public, subsidized housing** along the entire continuum of housing need.

Policy 2.2: Enable and encourage all cities and towns in Rhode Island to **increase the supply of affordable rental housing** for all residents, particularly low and very low income residents.



**Goal 2: Low and moderate income households will be able to secure affordable, healthy, conveniently located housing in all areas of Rhode Island.**

Policy 2.3: Develop an **excellent public housing system.**

Policy 2.4: Increase **economic security, self-sufficiency and access to opportunity** for residents in need.



## Goal 3: Housing in Rhode island will be free of disparities along race, gender and other dimensions of diversity.

Policy 3.1: **Revitalize and strengthen urban areas** for the benefit of existing and future residents.

Policy 3.2: **Expand housing choice** in areas of high opportunity.





## Goal 3: Housing in Rhode island will be free of disparities along race, gender and other dimensions of diversity.

Policy 3.3: Affirmative further fair housing as addressed in the **Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing**

Policy 3.4: **Increase education and awareness** about diverse housing opportunities.





## Goal 4: Rhode Island will be a state where no one experiences homelessness, and no one is without a stable, safe place to call home.

Uses *Opening Doors* as the strategic plan for this goal:

- Reduce **homelessness among veterans** by 20% per year until the need is met.
- Retool the **Homeless Crisis Response System** to be more effective in preventing/ending homelessness
- Increase **economic security** for those who are homeless or at risk.
- Improve **health and housing stability** of homeless and vulnerable populations
- **End chronic homelessness** in RI in five years
- **Engage leadership** in preventing and ending homelessness



## Goal 5: All people with disabilities in Rhode Island have the opportunity to live in home integrated in the community.

Policy 5.1: Support **community integration** for people **with disabilities** through quality housing, transportation and supportive services.

Policy 5.2: **Expand home and community based services** to reduce long-term care costs and improve client satisfaction.



## Goal 6: Seniors will have more housing choices that meet their changing needs, including supports that enable them to age in place.

Policy 6.1: Support senior mobility and housing choice through **well designed walkable neighborhoods and expanded transportation options.**

Policy 6.2: **Provide services** to address the needs of the growing aging population in all communities.



## Goal 7: All residents will live in safe and healthy homes and neighborhoods that are energy efficient and resilient to climate change and natural hazards.

Policy 7.1: Increase the capacity of state and local governments to **retrofit the existing housing stock** to ensure it is safe, energy efficient and resilient.

Policy 7.2: Adopt an energy policy that is **sustainable, efficient and reduces costs for residents.**



## Goal 7: All residents will live in safe and healthy homes and neighborhoods that are energy efficient and resilient to climate change and natural hazards.

Policy 7.3: Promote climate change and natural hazard **preparedness and adaptation** in neighborhoods and communities.



## Goal 8: State and local governments will have the capacity and funding needed to carry out the action items in this Housing Plan.

Policy 8.1: **Elevate** the importance of housing and housing development within State government.

Policy 8.2: Accelerate **the impact of regulatory reform and improve customer service** throughout state and local government.



# GROUP DISCUSSION



RhodeMap RI: Building a Better Rhode Island